

Agenda Item 05 - Written Public Comments

Item	Name	Topic	Date Received
Item 01	Jennifer Hart Black Gold Springs, LLC	Portland Water Bureau proposed filtration plant and pipes in prime Ag Land and a rural reserve	09/10/2021
Item 02	Amy Wong Friends of Family Farmers	Agenda Item 3 – Impacts of Natural Disasters	09/10/2021
Item 03	Larry Bailey Multnomah County Farm Bureau	Portland Water Bureau – Bull Run Filtration Project	09/10/2021
Item 04	Jill Spinks Craig Spinks Nursery, Inc	Portland Water Bureau – Bull Run Filtration Project	09/10/2021

From: Jennifer Hart sandyjen23@gmail.com
Subject: ODA Meeting-September 15, 2021
Date: September 10, 2021 at 1:45 PM
To: kvalness@oda.state.or.us



September 15, 2021 - ODA State Meeting

Re: Portland Water Bureau Building a Filtration Plant and Pipes in Agriculture Farm Land and A Rural Reserve.

Dear Board Members,

I am writing as a concerned Business Owner, and a resident. Portland Water Bureau is proposing to install a Filtration Plant and Pipes in prime Agricultural Land, and a Rural Reserve. The scope of the project is being installed in over 100 acres of Nursery Stock Farm Land.

As a property owner and a business owner I am very concerned, as for the raw pipeline is affecting three and half acres through Nursery Stock. I am very concerned this will ruin soil and field beyond repairable unable to grow anything in the future, for myself and the other Nursery Businesses in the areas. This project will devastate the Nursery Industry, financially and the land.

I do hope that ODA will take an interest and look into this project. This project does not belong our agricultural community.

Thanks,

Jennifer Hart

Black Gold Springs, LLC.

38200 SE Lusted Rd
Boring, Oregon 97009
503-467-8733
Sent from my iPhone



Friends of Family Farmers ♦ PO Box 665 ♦ Waltherville, OR 97489

503-581-7124 ♦ www.FriendsofFamilyFarmers.org

Oregon State Board of Agriculture
Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

September 10, 2021

Dear Chair Hallock, Vice Chair Harper, and Members of the Board:

My name is Amy Wong and I am the Policy Director at Friends of Family Farmers (FoFF). I am writing with regards to item number three, *Impacts of Natural Disasters*, on your agenda for the September 15th Board of Agriculture meeting.

Oregon's farmers and ranchers have been subjected to cascading climate emergencies this year including wildfires, ice storms, drought, and historic extreme heat. These natural disasters are making a difficult profession untenable and FoFF and coalition partners are urging the Board of Agriculture to please request that the Governor and the Joint Emergency Board allocate a portion of the \$150 million apportioned in Section 167 of HB 5006 for natural disaster relief for Oregon's small-scale producers, BIPOC producers, and others who are not able to access federal disaster relief funds.

When advocates met with the Governor's office to make this request, they were told that the money will get used quickly, and therefore they should plan on seeking federal aid. The problem is that many of these farmers and ranchers aren't eligible for federal aid. Many federal safety net programs do not cover the types of crops produced in Oregon, the types of operations that need relief, or the types of losses Oregon's farmers have experienced this year. For example, many small-scale, diversified crop farms are not able to obtain crop insurance, so they are excluded from any federal assistance programs with crop insurance requirements.

In light of these shortcomings, FoFF and coalition partners are asking that these funds be distributed first to those who aren't able to access federal disaster relief funds.

Below is a sampling of losses that FoFF farmers and ranchers reported after the heat dome heat wave, with more likely to come as the season continues:

- 50% loss of cherry crop;
- 65% – 75% losses in blueberries, which is literally an existential crisis for this farm;
- 70% - 80% loss of marionberry crop;
- Total loss of row crop rotations (cilantro, parsleys, broccolini);
- Multiple farms experienced snap and English pea planting losses;
- Native plant loss including elderberry, alder, spruce, and Douglas Fir;
- Greenhouse heirloom rotation damage led to a two-week production gap;
- Loss of a third of one farm's laying flock;
- Loss of hundreds of broilers and layers;
- Loss of multiple livestock.

Many of these farmers and ranchers stepped up to feed their communities in the wake of Covid-19 supply chain disruptions, and now it is time to step up and assist them.

I am also including a letter making this request that was sent to Governor Brown and the Joint Emergency Board, which is signed by many supporting organizations and businesses.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Amy M Wong

Amy Wong

Governor Brown and Co-Chairs and members of the Joint Emergency Board
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

September 7, 2021

Governor Brown, Co-Chairs Courtney and Kotek and members of the Joint Emergency Board:

Oregon's farmers and ranchers have endured multiple natural disasters this year, including extreme heat, drought, and wildfires. Farmers and ranchers are prepared to withstand and navigate weather impacts, but these disasters are threatening their viability. This is even more true for small-scale farms and those from Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and disadvantaged communities, who may not have the resources to weather these disruptions and often fall between the cracks of traditional safety nets and government aid. These producers are integral members of their communities and providing support in this critical time will help ensure a resilient food supply system.

Many federal safety net programs for farmers and ranchers do not cover the types of crops produced in Oregon, the types of operations that need relief, or the types of losses our farmers have experienced this year. For example, many small-scale, diversified crop farms are not able to obtain crop insurance, so they are excluded from any federal assistance programs with crop insurance requirements. As a result, federal assistance programs leave many of Oregon's farmers, especially small-scale farms and BIPOC producers, ineligible for federal disaster relief. Assistance from the state is needed to help producers with losses not covered by federal programs.

We urge you to *allocate a portion of the \$150 million allocated in Section 167 of HB 5006 for natural disaster relief to Oregon's small-scale producers, BIPOC producers, and others who are not able to access federal disaster relief funds.* We understand that this funding is in high demand. Because this funding is limited it should be distributed first to those who aren't easily able to access federal disaster relief funds.

When the Emergency Board sets priorities for the state's disaster relief funds, please include extreme heat, drought, and wildfires, all of which are impacting Oregon's farmers. Please focus this funding on Oregon's farmers who are not able to access federal disaster relief funds and prioritize small-scale and BIPOC producers. We believe this is the best use of these limited funds.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Signed by the following organizations and businesses,

1000 Friends of Oregon
A Greater Applegate
Alder Street Consulting
American Farmland Trust
Bend Farmers Market
Black Food Sovereignty Coalition
Blue Raven Farm LLC
Community Co-Pack NW
Farmers Market Fund
Friends of Family Farmers
Headwaters Concepts Culinary Collaboratory
High Desert Food and Farm Alliance
Huerto de la Familia
Northeast Oregon Economic Development District
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network
Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Tilth
OSU Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems
Pacific NW Community Support Agriculture Coalition
PNW Packaged Food and Beverage Group
Slow Food Wallawas
Sustainable Northwest
Willamette Farm and Food Coalition
Wolf Gulch Farm

September 10, 2021

Director Alexis Taylor, ODA
Deputy Director Lisa Hansen, ODA
Oregon State Board of Agriculture

As you may know, the Portland Water Bureau (PWB) is in the permitting phase for a new water filtration facility (the Bull Run Filtration Project). The currently proposed location for this facility is on approximately 100 acres of agricultural land, which is currently zoned for EFU and is just east of the corner of SE Dodge Park Blvd and SE Cottrell Rd in East Multnomah County. As local representatives of Oregon agriculture, we have significant concerns regarding the proposed siting of this new facility on EFU land, the permitting process being followed by PWB, and the potential short and long-term impacts to agricultural operations in the area.

We all have a vested interest in protecting exclusive farm use lands and ensuring that Oregon's permitting and zoning processes are correctly and faithfully followed. With this in mind, we ask for the Oregon Department of Agriculture's assistance in:

- Assessing whether the site meets other criteria for such a facility and the site selection fits within Oregon Land Use law.
- Identifying potential unanticipated, short-term, and/or long-term impacts to agriculture in the area proximate the proposed facility.
- Identifying the steps required by PWB to move forward with the proposed project and the opportunities for public comment on each step.
- Assessing progress through these processes to ensure that PWB is in fact following all required procedures and meeting all public reporting and comment requirements.

The immediate area impacts are of grave concern to area farm and ranch families. The potential precedent of this proposed siting is of concern to many producers outside the immediate vicinity. We ask your help in ensuring that this process is implemented correctly and that the needs of area farmers are fully heard and addressed. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Larry Bailey
President, Multnomah County Farm Bureau
larry@vernajeannursery.com

Subject: September 15, 2021 ODA Meeting
Date: Friday, September 10, 2021 at 7:10:23 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Jill Spinks
To: VALNESS Karla * ODA
CC: STONE Jeff

Re: Portland Water Bureau Building a Filtration Plant and Pipes in Agriculture Farm Land and A Rural Reserve.

Dear Board Members,

I am writing as a concerned Business Owner of Craig Spinks Nursery, Inc. doing business for 43 years in Gresham and as a resident.

Portland Water Bureau is proposing to install a Filtration Plant and Pipes in prime Agricultural Land, and a Rural Reserve. The scope of the project is being installed in over 100 acres of prime Nursery Stock Farm Land.

As a property owner and a business owner I am very concerned, as to how the raw pipeline will affect acreage through Nursery Stock. It's also very disturbing that this will ruin soil and fields beyond repair and we'll be unable to grow anything in the future, for myself and the other Nursery Businesses in the area This project will devastate the Nursery Industry financially and the damage to land. We have always had very strict exclusive farm use regulations in place in our area and this would be an abomination to our nursery industry to bring in this water filtration plant and goes against the exclusivity & use of the land. What we also don't know is the impact on my family farm & to other farms in the area as Portland Water Bureau tries to change regulations of our land. We own land in direct relationship to the proposed pipeline.

I do hope that ODA will take an interest and look into this project. This project does not belong in our agricultural community.

Sincerely,
Craig & Jill Spinks
Craig Spinks Nursery, Inc.
6358 SE 302nd Ave.
Gresham, OR 97080
503-663-5851

Sent from my iPhone